का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक को पुर:स्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए ।"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री एस. एस. अहलूवालिया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुर:स्थापित करता हूं ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : The Reservation of Agro-based Industries for the Co-operatives of Unemployed Youth Bill, 1994. Shri Suresh Pachouri. Not present. The Banking Companies (Audit of Accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India) Bill, 1994. Shri Suresh Pachouri. Not present.

The Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1994

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय (पश्चिम बंगाल) : महोदया, मैं प्रस्ताव करती हूं कि :

"रेल संरक्षण बल अधिनियम, 1957 का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पुर:स्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए ।"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुर:स्थापित करती हूं ।

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991—contd.

SHRI HIPHEI (Mizoram) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that I am going to participate in this discussion on a very important issue, that is, the resolution moved by Mr. Narayanasamy, who is a non-Christian. I am very, very grateful to him for moving this Resolution. Sir, India is known as a secular country and its secularism is also known to the world. But, today, the Christians are not allowed to enjoy that secularism. We have gone to the extent of setting up the National Commission on Human Rights. But, Sir, the Dalits and particularly the Dalit Christians, when they become Christians, have to forfeit all the facilities enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes. This is very much against the main Constitution of our country. Sir, article 25 of the Constitution of India has clearly defined that any citizen of India has the right to profess, practise and propagate any religion. Every citizen has a right to profess, practise and propagate his or her own religion. The same Constitution gives right of equality before law. If this law is to be applied to all citizens of India, then any citizen of India, to whichever religion he or she belongs, should not be deprived of his or her right of enjoying the facilities enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But, today, this is not the practice in this country. It is not that today we have set up our own National Commission on Human Rights. Even after having the National Commission on Human Rights, a Dalit or any citizen of India, after he or she becomes a Chiristian, has to forfeit the facilities enjoyed by the other Scheduled Castes. This is very much against the Constitution, this is very much against the Directive Principles and this is very much against the Fundamental Rights. So, whatever may be the hindrance. Whatever may be the problem, that should be solved. If there is any law which lays down that any citizen of India, after becoming a Christian, has to forfeit the facilities enjoyed by the other Scheduled Castes, then that law is against the very spirit of our Constitution. The Constitution clearly says that no citizen should be barred and all citizens of India are equal before law. I would like to know whether the Dalits have to lose this facility if they become Christians. This is gross discrimination. This is against the Constitution. I would like to request the Government to look into this. Unless this problem is solved, I am sure nobody will accept that India is a secular country. Article 15 of the Constitution clearly states :

> "Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth—The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them."

Sir, there can be no better proof than this —any citizen can adopt any religion of his choice. But today, the Dalits or people belonging to other castes, Scheduled Castes, are not allowed to join Christianity, to accept Christianity as their own religion. I do not really understand why. Today, Christians constitute only two per cent of

the total population of the country. Why should we prevent those who want to become Christians, from choosing the religion of their choice if we say 'India is a secular country'? Let the Government come forward with a Bill or an amendment that is required to solve this problem.

Again, article 16 of the Constitution states;

> "Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment—There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of public relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State."
>
> No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State"

Sir, the whole provision is violated. The whole provision is intentionally violated because any citizen of India or any Schedule Caste person, if he becomes a Christian, he has to lose the employment facilities which are enjoyed by other Scheduled Caste persons. So if this practict is allowed to go on like this, all the other provisions of the Constitution including those contained in articles 25, 14, 15 and 16 have to be abolished. Otherwise, any citizen should be allowed to freely join Christianity, Hindu, Muslim or Sikh religion, any religion he likes. Sir, as I have said, we have our own National Commission of Human Rights. We have proclaimed to the world that India is a secular country but it is not. So, my humble request and suggestion to the Government is that Dalits or other Scheduled Caste persons are allowed to join whatever religion they like; otherwise, India cannot be called a secular country, India cannot be called a free country. Thank you, Sir

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it was one of the remarkable moments when Shri V. Narayanasamy introduced the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1991 on the 22nd November, 1991. Sir, this House had fruitful discussions on 13th August, 1993, 27th August, 1993, 17th December, 1993, 4th March, 1994, 18th March, 1994 and today. Twenty-eight hon. Members participated in the discussion on this Bill.

Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the Constitutional (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 by adding a proviso to paragraph 3 in the following words:—

> "Provided that a member of the Scheduled Caste belonging to the Hindu or Sikh religions, on conversion to any other religion including Christianity, as well as his wife and children, shall continue to receive all the benefits which they were entitled to as members of the Scheduled Caste before such conversion."

Sir, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 as amended up to date stipulates that no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu or the Sikh or the Bhuddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of the Scheduled Caste. Only those races, tribes and communities which strictly fulfil the prescribed criteria are treated as the Scheduled Castes. The criteria is extreme social, education and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability. Sir, untouchability has been traditionally associated with the Hindu religion. Explanation II under Article 25 of the Constitution provides that the reference to Hindu religion shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jain or Buddhist religion and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly.

In view of this position, the Scheduled Caste status was conferred on persons belonging to communities mentioned in Presidential Orders and professing the Sikh and Buddhist religions in September, 1956 and June, 1990.

In this regard, the Supreme Court, in the case of Soosai *Vs.* Union of India ruled:—

> "To establish that paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 discriminates against Christian members of the enumerated castes it must be shown that they suffer from educational backwardness and similar levels of degradation within the Christian community necessitating interven-

tion by the State under the provisions of the Constitution."

"....*It is not sufficient to show that* the same caste continues after conversion. It is necessary to establish further that the disabilities and handicaps suffered from such caste membership in the social order of its origin—Hinduism—continue in their oppressive severity *in the new environment of* a different religious community."

As pointed out in Shri V. Narayanasamy's Bill, there has been a demand on behalf of Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity that they should be treated on a par with Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist Scheduled Castes. The argument advanced is that their social and economic backwardness has not disappeared after their conversion. All the Members who spoke on the Bill, except for one, spoke in favour of the Bill. They voiced a similar opinion and placed their demand that the Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity should be treated at par with Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist Scheduled Castes. In this context, I would like to place on record that this Government is sympathetic and considerate towards the cause of all oppressed sections of the society. However, with reference to the Bill of the hon. Member, I would like to point out that the hon. Member has not taken into consideration the conversion from Buddhist religion which finds place in para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended up-to-date. Further, the Member has not suggested any amendment to six other constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders which notify the list of Scheduled Castes in respect of Chandigarh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Pondicherry, which is Mr. Narayanasamy's State, Daman and Diu and Sikkim. Therefore, Shri Narayanasamy's Bill does not propose a complete piece of legislation on the subject. Besides, the Christian converts of Scheduled Caste origin have now been included in the Central lists of other backward classes. These lists have been notified on 10th September, 1993, in respect of 14 States. Out of these 14 States, Christian converts of the Scheduled Caste origin have been included in the OBC lists of 10 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Other States are yet to be included. We will be doing it at the earliest. They have, therefore, already become eligible for reservation etc. in the OBC category.

Sir, the House is aware of this Government's commitment to the cause of the depressed classes including the Scheduled Castes. In the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, Rs. 6,916.92 crores were spent under the Special Component Plan for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes. This helped in raising the life standards of 223.19 lakh Scheduled Caste families. I reiterate this Governments resolve for ameliorating the conditions of the Scheduled Castes. We are fully aware, completely sensitive and totally dedicated to their uplift. I would also like to inform the House that an Advisory Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Welfare) to advise the Government on various issues of revision of lists of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which, *inter alia,* include the issue of treating Christian converts of the Scheduled Caste Origin at par with the Scheduled Castes. On submission of the Committee's report, our Govt. will take all positive steps towards amelioration of the conditions of the Christian converts. The Committee's work is in progress. Very soon, the Committee's report is going to come to us. In view of the facts I have stated, I request the hon Member, Shri V. Narayanasamy, to withdraw his Bill and oblige.

श्रीसंघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं एक बात मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं। उनका तो विषय केवल इतना था कि अनुसूचित जातियों से जो क्रिश्चियन हो गए हैं उनको शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स की लिस्ट में शामिल किया जाए। लेकिन कुछ बातें आपने अनुसूचित जातियों के उत्थान के लिए जो कार्य कर रहे हैं वह कहीं। आपने जो उत्तर दिया है मैं उससे संतुष्ट हूं। आप मुझे यह बताएं कि शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट कमिश्नर की रिपोर्ट पर 1988 से आज तक सदन में चर्चा नहीं हुई। हर सत्र में आप उसको विषयों की सूची में भेजते हैं कि इस सत्र में इस रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा कराई जाएगी। मुझे दुख है कि चालू सत्र में आपने उस रिपोर्ट के विषय सूची में भी नहीं रखा है। यह

जो आपकी अनुसूचित जातियों के कल्याण की घोषणाएं हैं, मंत्री जी क्षमा करेंगे, यह खोखली हैं और घोषणा मात्र हैं। यदि वास्तव में आप गम्भीर हैं तो इसी सत्र में आप शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट कमिश्नर की जितनी भी रिपोर्ट हैं, उन पर दोनों सदनों में चर्चा कराइए तब पता चलेगा कि आपने उस वर्ग के लिए कितना किया है और क्या करना चाहते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष--श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज पीठासन हुईं।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Mr. Gautam, I will reply to all your points. What you are saying is not relevant to the present subject.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to reply to the speeches of the hon. Members and the hon. Minister made in this House. The Bill that I had brought before this House related to the benefits that are being given by the Government of India and the State Governments for the Scheduled Castes people and the denial of these benefits to a person or his family on their conversion to Christianity on the ground of change in the religion. I demanded that this discrimination, which is totally unconstitutional and illegal, should not be allowed to continue and that it should be removed. Several hon. Members participated in this discussion. I am grateful to all of them and especially to Shri Gautam. Shri Sangh Priya Gautam, Shri Hari Prasad, Shrimati Kamla Sinha, Shri Moolchand Meena, Shri Ramachandran Pillai, Shri John F. Fernandes, Shri Satya Prakash Malviya, Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav, Shri J. S. Raju, Shri Subramanian Swamy, Shrimati Satya Bahin, Shri Ish Dutt Yadav, Shri N. Giri Prasad, Shri Tindivanam G. Venkatraman, Shri Ajit P. K. Jogi, Shri S. Madhavan, Shrimati Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel, Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy, Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari, Shri M. M. Jacob, Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi, Shri Mentay Padmanabham, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Shri V. Gopalsamy, Shri Ram Ratan Ram and the last speaker Shri Hiphei, participated in the debate and I am very very grateful to all of them. I am partially grateful to the hon. Minister who intervened in the discussion.

Sir, it is a very important and historic Bill. Through this Bill, I am not claiming anything which has not been accepted by the Constitution, which is not acceptable because of the customs and conventions in the society and which may injure the rights of the other communities.

Madam, the claim which I make in this august House has been accepted by the Government of India. I wanted to be very clear in that aspect. Madam, when the Bill was brought about the Sikh converts, about the persons who were converted to Sikhism from Hinduism, when there were Scheduled Caste persons, the Government of India accepted their demands. The hon. Minister is telling in this House that there is no social discrimination but there is social disability. He also said that the point that the people's rights have been totally ignored or taken away has not been proved.

Madam, the hon. Minister has not fully supported my point and, therefore, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister one thing. Madam, the converts from Hinduism to Sikhism, if they belong to the Scheduled Castes, they have been given the benefits by the Government of India by amending the same Scheduled Castes Amendment Order of 1950. Then, in 1980, another amendment was brought by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to include the Scheduled Caste people who embraced Buddhism. And those people have been recognised. Madam, we find that these people are only in a microscopic minority. As far as Christian converts are concerned, the people who embraced Christianity from Hinduism, it is a matter of history that they went to that religion because in our country, we have no bar for any person to preach any religion to join any religion or to practise any religion. And when we call ourselves as a secular country, when we say that India is one and persons belonging to all religious should be respected, this discrimination is not only from the point of view of social status but also from the point of the status that has to be given to a person under the Constitution. It is not only a discrimination, but it is also a kind of neglect of that community by the Government. That aspect has to be considered.

Madam, one of the hon. Members of this House, Shri Sangh Priya Gautam made three points. He said that when the people embrace one religion, they cannot claim the benefits of the other religion. When

we accept in this country that we respect all religions and that there should not be any discrimination on the ground of religion and when it is enshrined in the Constitution itself, it is all the more why we have to respect the Constitution and implement the provisions of the Constitution The hon. Member has argued vehemently and in a convicing manner about his point of view. I respect his sentiments, but I do not agree with his point of view. He has also asked : When they are getting the benefits of the Christian religion, how can they claim the SC benefits ? In this connection, I would like to state one thing because the hon. Minister is from Tamil Nadu. He knows the plight of the Christian community people who are living along with the Scheduled Castes people in villages, in towns, and in all other areas. The whole problem is that there is a kind of neglect which has come in because of this discrimination. The people who are converts feel that they are not considered to be citizens in the society. It has gone to that stage. And a number of social schemes, whether it is a pension scheme or an educational scheme or a scheme to benefit the agriculturists, are implemented by the Government. If the benefits go to a Scheduled Caste person and are denied to his neighbour who is converted to Christiany, this person feels that he is neglected and he is not considered as an Indian on the Indian soil itself. That kind of a situation has come and it has to be removed from the minds of the people. It is not a question of one lakh of people or two lakhs of people. Take the case of Sikh community. There are more than 5 crores in number who converted to Christianity and embraced that religion in the country. But there are not more than 60 lakhs of people who belong to Sikh community. The Government says that there is no discrimination on grounds of religion but at the same time they themselves preach discrimination. The hon. Minister is very forthright and I am grateful to him when he said that there has been discrimination for years together. Now with a view to removing this discrimination and the anomaly and with a view to giving benefits to the people, I expected that the Minister with come out with some concrete proposals before the House. The hon. Minister said that in 14 States, the converted people have been treated as OBCs. But that is not sufficient. When I am entitled to something under the Constitution, it cannot be taken away. Constitutional provision has to be honoured by the Government. If the Government wants the citizens to respect the Constitutional provisions, it should also similarly respect those provisions. Therefore when the hon. Minister says that they have been included in the OBC category, that is not sufficient. The benefits enjoyed by the Scheduled Caste people in the matter of education, in the matter of employment, are being denied to those Scheduled Caste people who converted to Christianity.

I put a simple question and want to know whether it is a fact that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Minister of Social Welfare, gave an assurance on the floor of this House, when we moved an amendment in the original Bill relating to converted Neo-Buddhists, and he categorically admitted that it is an injustice done to the Christian converts and for the purpose of removing that injustice, he would bring forward a Bill in the House. This was the assurance given by the then hon. Minister which has to be implemented by the Government— whichever Government may be— and the successive Government has to implement it. Here I would like to remind the hon. Minister about one thing more. He knows it full well. When the senior Minister, Sitaram Kesriji went to Vijayawada, before a gathering of more than 3 lakh people, he gave an assurance that this was an injustice done to the Christian converts and it would be rectified and the Government will take all possible steps to see that the injustice done to them was removed. But nothing has been done. This happened about a year and a half ago. Recently, apart from the judgements, verdicts and indictments by the courts saying it is an injustice to the people who belong to Scheduled Caste community and who embrace Christianity, there was a judgement by the High Court of Madras on a case of a doctor getting a degree who claimed that he was a converted Christian and he was declared, in that judgement, to be entitled to reservations. That is what the High Court said.

Take the report of the Mandal Commission. The hon. Minister on the floor of the House said that it will be implemented in

the right spirit, when there was a discussion relating to the Scheduled Caste people who converted to Christianity from Hinduism.

The decision of the then Government on the Mandal Commission's recommendations was challenged before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave a very categorical finding. The Supreme Court gave a very clear finding. They said that this was a total discrimination against the religion and against the community, that these people were being exploited, that the Constitutional provisions were not being implemented in right earnest and that, therefore, they should be given the benefits which they had enjoyed for years together as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes earlier.

The hon. Minister of Welfare, Shri Sitaram Kesri, had said on the floor of the House—the hon. Minister of State for Welfare had also said—that they would honour the findings of the Supreme Court, that they would implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. The decision given by the Supreme Court on the recommendations of the Mandal Commission has to be implemented in right earnest. However, we find that they have been wavering; they have not implemented it.

Madam, two months back, in Delhi, more than one lakh people gathered. People coming from the various States gathered at a rally. There was a big rally at the Ramlila Maidan. The rally was attended by the people belonging to this community. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who had converted themselves into Christianity attended this rally. A unanimous Resolution was passed at the rally requesting the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Welfare, and the hon. Minister of State for Welfare, to consider their demand because this was a serious problem which had also the law and order dimension. Madam, it was a very successful Convention. Apart from this, there was another rally at Madurai, a place from which the hon. Minister hails. The hon. Minister might also be knowing about this rally. It was a very huge rally. About five-six lakh people gathered at Madurai. It was only a State-level Convention.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU : I was to come, but I could not come.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The hon. Minister just avoided the meeting. I went there. I addressed the rally. I could understand the sentiments of the people.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU : I was to come, but I could not make it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The hon. Minister says that he could not come because of various other engagements. I agree with that. When I interacted with them, I could understand the sentiments of the people. In fact, Madam, I inaugurated the rally. At this State-level Convention, they pointed out that this discrimination had been continuing right from the days of Independence. Today, the situation is such that the younger generation of this community is in a militant mood. They want their social and Constitutional rights to be protected. Their demand is genuine and it has to be considered and conceded by the Government as well as by the other comunities. If something happens in the case of the upper castes, who constitute only 10 per cent of the population of the country, the entire force is behind them.

Madam, as you know, these people are doing yeoman's service to the people of this country. They are running educational institutions, hospitals and so on. They are sincerely working for the welfare of the people, particularly, in the North-Eastern Region. They are working in a very difficul situation there. The burden of the Government has been considerably taken over by them. This is in the two important fields of health and education. They are true nationalists. They are working in very difficult conditions, in hilly terrains. This community should be protected by the Government of India.

Madam, in this connection, I would like to point out that, sometime back, about 25 Archbishops from all over the country wanted to meet the Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister gave them an audience. The hon. Prime Minister was sympathetic towards their de-

mands. He heard them or about an hour. After meeting the Prime Minister, they went back with the hope that their problems would be solved. Today, the subject is in the hands of the Minister of State for Welfare. He is a young and dynamic Minister. He is for the poor. He is for the downrodden. He is for the minorities. He can fight for their rights. I know him as a person who is committed to the cause.

Madam, in spite of the judgement of the Supreme Court, in sptie of the Constitutional provisions, in spite of the support extended by hon. Members, the matter remains as it is. Twenty-eight Members participated in the discussion on this Bill. Only two dissenting voices were raised. These were of Shri Sangh Priya Gautam and Shri Ram Rattan Ram. Shri Ram Rattan Ram could not continue his speech. Then, when Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy spoke, he said that he was not reflecting the view of his Party. He said that his Party was for the Bill. He said that it was his personal view.

Therefore, almost all the hon. Members who spoke extended their wholehearted support to this Bill. Support was extended, irrespective of party considerations. This clearly shows that there is an urgent need for bringing forward an amendment for the purpose of giving these benefits to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who had converted therselves into Christianity.

Madam, the hon. Minister may also feel that some political parties are having some reservations. I would like to tell him that the reservations expressed by some of the political parties are not very serious. Even though two or three points have been made by one of the hon. Members in the Opposition, he was not very serious about them. Therefore, Madam, it is a very important Bill, a very historic Bill. I am very glad that the Minister has got a positive mind in respect of the cause for which the converted Christians are fighting. The hon. Minister has clearly stated in this august House that they have appointed a committee which is headed by the Secretary, Welfare, and the issue relating to the converted Christians is also one of the subjects that have been included, on which the committee will submit its report. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this committee was appointed, the terms of reference, especially in relation to the subject in question and when the report would be submitted.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM : Who will be the members ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : That he will tell in detail because he mentioned only two or three lines about it. I want the hon. Minister to give a categorical assurance on the floor of the House as to when he is going to bring the Bill before this House.

Madam, now the time has come when the importance of this issue can be felt Twenty-five Archbishops of the entire country were able to meet the hon. Prime Minister and tell him about their problems. But the hon. Minister may have an apprehension that some who converted themselves into Islam may also claim such benefits. I do not deny the right that is to be given to them also because they are also facing this kind of a discrimination against them. The main and major problems for this community are two—education and employment. At the primary level, high school level and higher education level, they will be able to do something for them.

The problems of the Christian community as such have been taken care of, but this particular community of converted Christians is being neglected even by the Christians themselves. Even among the Christian community, I am very much pained to say--and the hon. Minister also knows this--these people are being treated as second class citizens. They have no right to pray in some of the churches where only the upper class Christians are allowed. Not only that. Most of the churches are dominated by people belonging to the upper class Christians. To remove them from their shackles, these people have got to be given protection by the Government because, when you say that all religious are equal and all religious are to be respected, then you have to give equal treatment to people belonging to all religions. So, I want the hon. Minister to tell this House when he is going to bring this Bill. As a true and sincere Member of this House and also as a person belonging to the party, I am going to withdraw

the Bill — there is no doubt about it because I am in a minority compared to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. K. THANGKA BALU : Where is the question of minority? You are in a majortiy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Compared to the Minister, I said. ...(*Interruptions*)... So I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister.

As far as appointment of the committee is concerned, I am grateful to the hon. Minister because both Mr. Sitaram Kesri, the Cabinet Minister, and the Minister of State have taken very keen interest in the matter. Apart from them, the hon. Prime Minister also wanted to help them.

I am very glad about it. I want to know the terms of reference of the committee, when it is going to submit its report and when you are going to bring the Bill in this august House

If the hon. Minister gives that assurance, I am prepared to wtihdraw the Biil.

I am grateful to the hon. Members, not only the hon. Members who participated in the proceedings but also the hon. Members who were present at the time of its discussion in the House for more than six months.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SAWARAJ) : Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to him?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU : Madam, I would like to respond to only one point.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : He has to respond to two. theree points I have made.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU : I have to respond to only one point. I have covered many other points earlier.

We appointed the committee in November, 1993. We had received a number of requests from all over India. More than 10,000 applications had come for inclusion in the list for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

There are two references to the committee. One is about the change in the SC/ST list. The other is the Christian converts issue. There are only two issues. Knowing fully well the seriousness of the issue. the Government very consciously decided to appoint the committee to go into the details and to bring a comprehensive proposal very soon. The committee is already on the job. I hope the committee will give its report very soon. The moment I get the report, certainly, we have to come to the House and get your endorsement.

As I mentioned in my intervention, we are second to none in this country in helping the SC/ST community and also the SC/converts. We will do all our best to that the probelms of SC converts are solved soon with co-opeartion of all the Members of this House and the other House.

I would like to thank Mr. Narayanasamy for having agreed to withdraw the Bill. I hope all of us will work together to see that the SC/ST community and the SC converts are placed in a better position in the country in the coming years.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Narayanasamy, are you withdrawing the Bill, or should I put it to vote?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Madam, I am thankful to you also for having presided over the House when my Bill was discussed.

I would like to withdraw the Bill.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE PREVENTION OF INFLUX OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE COUNTRY BILL, 1991.

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि :—

> "देश में विदेशी राष्ट्रिकों के अनधिकृत प्रवेश को नियंत्रित करने और उन्हें उनके मूल देश को निर्वासित करने तथा तत्संसक्त मामलों संबंधी विधेयक पर विचार करने की अनुमति दी जाए।"

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस विधेयक पर जब चर्चा करनी है तो मैं समझता हूं कि